



OWENS-WHITNEY ELEMENTARY SCHOOL DISTRICT #6

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Governing Board:
Clay Tyree, President
Frank Dazzo, Member
April Drane, Member

July 27, 2020

Dear Owens-Whitney Parents & Families,

I am writing to inform you of Owens Elementary School Districts **preliminary** plans for reopening our Schools as early as August 17th for the Fall semester. Owens school personnel have worked tirelessly over the last few months to develop a plan that includes appropriate precautionary measures that prioritize the health and safety of all students, employees, and visitors, while also enabling the school to continue to offer high quality academic programs, services, and activities to our community.

We are being cautious in our processes and are making all decisions with an understanding of the impact that it will have on our staff, students, families and the community at large. We are utilizing data, science, and guidance from local, state, and national health officials to help make these decisions.

A detailed plan, including the different phases of the Districts full re-entry plan will be available once it is finalized in the coming weeks. In the meantime, I want to provide you the below information regarding educational options, potential school calendar changes, new safety protocols, and how Owens Schools is planning to keep you, and your students, safer and healthier.

While we do not know what the future of the COVID-19 pandemic will look like, I am confident that the steps the District is taking will still allow our students to continue their educational objectives, while mitigating the risks of COVID-19.

School Reopening

Owens Elementary School District is planning to open school doors for the 2020-21 school year on Monday, August 17th based on the Executive Order from Governor Ducey prohibiting schools from offering **In-Person** instruction until this date. Our goal is to offer our students a quality education without compromising the health and safety of our students, staff, and families.

In the event that **In-Person** instruction is delayed beyond August 17th, Owens Elementary will be prepared to start **Blended Learning** on this date and will look much different than the Distance Learning that was provided for the final 10 weeks of the 2019-20 school year. Teachers will provide instruction, lessons, and activities using the Google Classroom platform as a delivery system for **all grade levels**. This may also include virtual (Zoom) type instruction and hard copy activities to better monitor and adjust to student progress. Electronic devices and connectivity will be provided to those who do not have them or cannot afford a basic internet connection to participate in this model.

Health Protocols / Facility / Building Enhancements

Our facilities team has developed and implemented new procedures to keep our classrooms and buildings safe for students, employees and visitors. Consistent cleaning and regular disinfecting practices have been implemented and new safety enhancements are being installed in high-traffic buildings. Some of these new enhancements include:

- Temperature checks for Students & Staff (Daily Wellness Checks)
- Improved air filters and circulation in buildings
- Hand sanitizer dispensers placed throughout buildings & classrooms
- Social Distancing, face cover protocols, and signage
- Touchless Water Fountains
- Disinfectant Foggers for Classrooms / Large Space Facilities
- Spray Disinfectant for Playground Equipment / Outdoor Surfaces

Lunch / Breakfast / Playground

To continue to provide a healthy hot lunch program while maintaining student distancing, additional spaces will be utilized during breakfast and lunch serving times. In addition to the cafeteria, plans are being developed to serve some grade groups in the auditorium or alternate spaces in order to stagger lunch recess and maintain cohort groups. Breakfast will continue to be served in the cafeteria until such time that distancing capacity is exceeded.

Registration

Registration packet will be mailed out in the coming days or provided directly to parents from staff members. Please complete the packet as instructed and return to Owens Elementary School at your earliest convenience.

I will emphasize that these are our preliminary plans today, as the impact of the COVID-19 virus in our state and community are ever changing. Actions by the local, state, and federal government agencies will ultimately impact our plans. We will continue to communicate as we approach the start of the school year.

Sincerely,



Bryan Bullington